

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A hose and coupling assembly comprising:

a hose, wherein the hose includes a corrugated portion that includes a plurality of grooves;

a coupling that connects the hose to an external passage;

a fitting member including (i) a passage portion having a receiving passage, and (ii) a first engagement catch projecting outwardly from an open peripheral end of the passage portion; and

a socket having: (i) an elastically and diametrically-expandable socket body for covering both of the fitting member and the corrugated portion; (ii) a second engagement catch, formed on the socket body, for engaging the first engagement catch; and (iii) a socket fitting portion, formed on an opening of the socket body, for engaging with at least a first one of the grooves of the corrugated portion; and

a sealing member located in a second one of the plurality of grooves for sealing between the corrugated portion and a wall of the external passage, wherein:

the socket is formed such that the connecting of the hose with the external passage with a tight seal is achieved by locating the sealing member in the second one of the grooves and engaging the socket fitting portion with the first one of the grooves and then by pressing the socket attached to the corrugated portion toward the fitting member to engage the second engagement catch with the first engagement catch;

disengagement of the second engagement catch from the first engagement catch is achieved by expanding the diameter of the socket body; and

the entire socket expands while the socket is pressed toward the fitting member.

2. (Previously presented) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 1, wherein the socket body has a slit across the entirety of a length of the socket to provide a C-shaped cross section.

3-7 (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 1, wherein the fitting member comprises a diametrical expansion projection for causing the socket body to expand due to rotation of the socket body relative to the fitting member.

9. (Previously presented) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 8, wherein the socket body comprises a guide for guiding the diametrical expansion projection.

10-26 (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) A hose and coupling assembly comprising:

a hose, wherein the hose includes a corrugated portion that includes a plurality of grooves
a coupling that connects the hose to an external passage;

a fitting member, which includes a receiving passage and a first engagement catch, wherein the first engagement catch projects outwardly from an end of the fitting member; and

a generally C-shaped socket, wherein the C-shaped socket includes:

an elastically and diametrically-expandable socket body for covering the fitting member and the corrugated section;

a slit formed in the socket, wherein the slit permits the socket to expand diametrically;

a second engagement catch, formed on the socket body, for engaging the first engagement catch; and

a socket fitting portion, formed on an opening of the socket body, for engaging with at least a first one of the grooves of the corrugated portion; and

a sealing member located in a second one of the plurality of grooves for sealing between the corrugated portion and a wall of the external passage, wherein:

the socket is formed such that connection of the hose with the external passage with a tight seal is achieved by locating the sealing member in the second one of the grooves and engaging the socket fitting portion with the first one of the grooves and then by pressing the socket, which is attached to the corrugated section, toward the fitting member to engage the second engagement catch with the first engagement catch, wherein the diameter of the socket increases and separation occurs at the slit when the socket is pressed axially toward the fitting member; and

disengagement of the second engagement catch from the first engagement catch is achieved by expanding the diameter of the socket body.

28 (Previously presented) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 27, wherein the separation at the slit and the expansion of the socket is caused by engagement between the first engagement catch and the second engagement catch when the socket is pressed axially toward the fitting member.

29. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 1, wherein the socket body has a plurality of arcuate bodies and deformable interlinking arches for connecting the arcuate bodies.

30. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 29, wherein the fitting member comprises a stopper for limiting rotation of the socket body relative to the fitting member.

31. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 1, wherein the fitting member comprises a stopper for limiting rotation of the socket body relative to the fitting member.

32. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 31, wherein the fitting member comprises a riser for causing the socket body to expand due to rotation of the socket.

33. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 1, wherein the socket comprises a push operation portion for applying force to a rim of the socket body to expand a diameter of the socket body due to the force.

34. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 2, wherein the fitting member comprises a stopper for limiting rotation of the socket body relative to the fitting member.

35. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 34, wherein the fitting member comprises a riser for causing the socket body to expand due to rotation of the socket.

36. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 2, wherein the socket comprises a push operation portion for applying force to a rim of the socket body to expand a diameter of the socket body due to the force.

37. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 2, further comprising a diametrical expansion restricting member for restricting diametrical expansion of the socket body when attached to the socket body extending over the slit.

38. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 37, wherein the diametrical expansion restricting member comprises an arcuate restricting member body conforming to a contour of the socket body and a catch formed on an inside peripheral wall of

the arcuate restricting member body, the catch being constructed and arranged to engage the contour of the socket body when the socket is pressed into the fitting member in a direction of hose insertion.

39. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 38, wherein the diametrical expansion restricting member comprises a push operation projection projecting from an exterior surface of the restricting member body, for applying force in the direction of hose insertion.

40. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 39, further comprising a temporary attaching member, the temporary attaching member being constructed and arranged to temporarily attach the socket body to the fitting body when the hose is not attached to the socket.

41. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 40, wherein the temporary attaching member is constructed and arranged to be temporarily attached to the socket at a midpoint in a process of the hose insertion.

42. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 37, wherein the diametrical expansion restricting member comprises a restricting member body having an arcuate face conforming to an exterior face of the socket body and an engaging pin projecting from the arcuate face, for engaging the socket body.

43. (New) The hose and coupling assembly according to claim 37, wherein the diametrical expansion restricting member straddles the slit and is made from a wire bent so as to engage the socket body.